

## **ACW YELLOWHEAD/WEST EDMONTON ZOOM REGIONAL SEPTEMBER 19, 2020**

Thirty-six ladies from eight churches connected with the ACW Regional meeting, held by Zoom on September 19, 2020. The Rev. Canon Lorne Manweiler, rector of St. Timothy's Anglican Church in Edmonton, provided technical support for the meeting and officiated at Morning Prayer. Members read the lessons, ACW prayers, Psalm 150 and The Lord's Prayer. The Rev. Sally Harrison read the Gospel and National President Margaret Warwick read the intercessions. Vice-President Elaine Dickie read the Venite and closing prayers.

We were blessed as our diocesan PWRDF representative Dorothy Marshall provided a great introduction to her friend Suzanne Rumsey, Communications Coordinator for PWRDF and our guest speaker for the day.

Suzanne spoke for twenty-five minutes, beginning with her family history of coming from western Canada (Cranbrook) and being at St. Timothy's from 1981-92, when her father, the Rev. Gavin Rumsey was rector. She learned about PWRDF by being a youth delegate to PWRDF workshops, and since 2000 she has been working at the national office.

Suzanne discussed PWRDF's focus on assistance to developing countries, describing the Mothers, Newborn and Child Health program in Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Mozambique; the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya and UBINIG (research in women's rights) in Bangladesh. Locally, PWRDF supports the Indigenous Birth Support Ministry, which is an aspect of the Indigenous Ministries of Edmonton diocese. COVID-19 has hit developing countries as it has ours, and scarcity of supplies makes every contribution most significant. Suzanne emphasized the reputation of PWRDF as a charity – it is in the top 100 charities in Canada, which does have 85,000 recognized charities.

Suzanne engaged in a Q&A session. She told us that she has remained active in her private life, keeping fit and riding her bicycle for Ride for Refuge, a PWRDF fundraiser. In 2012 she rode from Halifax to Montreal (1400 km). This year she is riding around Toronto for the same distance and has almost reached her goal.

St. Timothy's ACW President Gen Ashwell expressed thanks to Suzanne for her interesting talk, and her energy.

A business meeting followed. We adopted the church reports as written. After discussion, we voted to donate half of the money received from churches to PWRDF and half to Dr. Graham Holmes in India, which we have supported for the past few years.

Gen Ashwell, President  
St. Timothy's ACW